

U.S. - Pakistan Strategic Dialogue

March 24 - 25, 2010



“[The Strategic Dialogue] is the next step in a relationship that stretches back to Pakistan’s earliest days, but it is also the start of something new - a new phase in our partnership, with a new focus and a renewed commitment to work together to achieve the goals we share: stability, prosperity, opportunity for the people of both Pakistan and the United States.”

--- U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton

“There are great expectations from the enterprise we are launching today. I’m conscious that it will not be without its challenges and complications... But, I am confident that we have the requisite political will on both sides to pursue it successfully and to achieve concrete results, because at the end of the day, it is in the mutual interest of our two nations to work together to advance our shared objectives.”

--- Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, accompanied by high level delegations from both governments, met in Washington on March 24-25, 2010, for the U.S.-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue. In six sessions, both sides exchanged views on measures to enhance Pakistan's inherent capacities to realize the vision of a democratic, progressive state, committed to socio-economic advancement and to effectively address political, economic, development and security challenges. The sessions focused on agriculture, communications and public diplomacy, defense and security, economic development and finance, energy and water, and social issues.



Department of Agriculture Deputy Under Secretary Darci Vetter, USAID Executive Director of the Afghanistan-Pakistan Task Force James Bever and Pakistani Agriculture Secretary Muhammad Zia-ur-Rehman discussed **Agriculture** issues, including innovative water use and opportunities for increased agricultural export.

The **Communications and Public Diplomacy** group, including Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy Judith McHale, Secretary for Information Technology Najeebullah Malik, and Pakistan Ambassador Hussain Haqqani, discussed

people to people engagement through technology and new media, as well as strengthening the shared values between the U.S. and Pakistan.

In the **Defense and Security** session, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Michele Flournoy met with Defense Secretary Syed Athar Ali and discussed improved coordination with ongoing counterinsurgency operations.



National Security Council Senior Director David Lipton and Advisor to the Prime Minister for Finance and Revenue Abdul Hafeez Shaikh discussed



On March 25, 2010 Dr. Rajiv Shah, the Administrator of the USAID, joined Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh, Advisor to Pakistan's Prime Minister on Finance and Economic Affairs, to sign three implementation letters committing \$51 million to rehabilitate, refurbish and upgrade the Guddu Thermal Power Station, Muzaffargarh Thermal Power Station and the Jamshoro Thermal Plant. These investments are a major step in the U.S. partnership with the people and Government of Pakistan.

Economic Development and Finance issues, including the challenges of public-private partnerships, Reconstruction Opportunity Zones, and improving the investment climate in both countries.

The **Energy and Water**

group, including NSC Senior Director David Lipton and Coordinator for International Energy Affairs David Goldwyn, met with Water and Power Secretary Shahid Rafi to discuss how the Friends of Democratic Pakistan could be better leveraged to work in conjunction with the U.S. signature energy program to alleviate Pakistan's energy crunch. They also discussed watershed management and water conservation, in light of climate change and global warming.

In the **Social Issues** discussion, USAID Executive Director of the Afghanistan-Pakistan Task Force James Bever and Advisor to the Prime Minister for Social Issues Shahnaz Wazir Ali focused on the **health and education** sectors. They outlined ways to overcome the challenges of implementing national curriculum standards and break through the barriers to educational and vocational opportunities for women and girls. The group also discussed best practices for increasing access to primary care and disease surveillance.



“President Obama and Secretary Clinton have long stressed the breadth and depth of the U.S.-Pakistan relationship... It represents a shared commitment on the part of both nations to strengthening the bilateral relationship, and building an even broader partnership based on mutual respect and mutual trust.”



- Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Richard C. Holbrooke

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A Policy Steering Group was established during the March meetings to intensify and expand the sectoral dialogue process in the fields of agriculture; communications and public diplomacy; defense; economics, economy and finance; education; energy; health; law enforcement and counterterrorism; market access; science and technology; security, stability and nonproliferation; water; and women's empowerment. Working groups centered on these issues will meet later this year in Pakistan, continuing the commitment of both nations to a long-term partnership.



On March 25, 2010, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Jacob Lew and Pakistan's Finance Secretary Salman Siddique signed a Letter of Intent on Support for Construction of Priority Roads in Pakistan to Aid in Malakand Reconstruction. The U.S. will provide \$40 million to upgrade two key roads: the Peshawar Ring Road and approximately 43 kilometers of the road from Kanju to Madyan in Swat. Subsequent to the signing, U.S. Ambassador Anne W. Patterson and President Asif Ali Zardari inaugurated the Peshawar Ring Road project on April 27, 2010.

The Way Forward

FOCUS	U.S. LEAD	PAKISTANI LEAD
POLICY STEERING GROUP	Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Richard C. Holbrooke	Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir
AGRICULTURE	James Bever, USAID Afghanistan Pakistan Task Force Director Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture Darci Vetter	Secretary of Agriculture Zia-ur-Rehman
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC DIPLOMACY	Under Secretary of State Judith McHale	Secretary for Information Technology Najeebullah Malick
DEFENSE	Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Dr. David Ochmanek Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense David Sedney	Secretary of Defense Syed Athar Ali
ECONOMICS & FINANCE	Deputy Secretary of State Jacob Lew Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Neal Wolin National Security Council Sr. Director David Lipton	Finance Advisor Hafeez Shaikh
EDUCATION	James Bever, USAID Afghanistan Pakistan Task Force Director Department of Education Sr. Counselor Dr. Marshall Smith	Prime Minister's Advisor on Social Issues Shehnaz Wazir Ali
ENERGY	National Security Council Sr. Director David Lipton	Minister for Water & Power Raja Pervez Ashraf Minister for Petroleum & Natural Resources Syeed Qamar Minister of Finance Hafeez Shaikh
HEALTH	Deputy Assistant Administrator Susan Brems Dr. Nils Daulaire, Department of Health and Human Services	Prime Minister's Advisor on Social Issues Shehnaz Wazir Ali
LAW ENFORCEMENT/ COUNTERTERRORISM	Ambassador Daniel Benjamin Coordinator for Counterterrorism	Interior Minister Rehman Malik
MARKET ACCESS	U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Ron Kirk Deputy Secretary of State Jacob Lew National Security Council Sr. Director David Lipton	Commerce Secretary Zafar Mahmood Minister of Investment Waqar Ahmed Khan
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	Assistant Secretary of State Kerri-Ann Jones	Higher Education Commission of Pakistan Executive Director Dr. Sohail Naqvi Ministry of Science & Technology Secretary K.B. Rind
SECURITY, STRATEGIC STABILITY AND NON PROLIFERATION	Under Secretary Ellen Tauscher	Additional Secretary of the UN and International Organizations Munnawar Saeed Bhatti
WATER	Under Secretary of State Maria Otero National Security Council Sr. Director David Lipton	Prime Minister's Advisor on Water Resources Kamal Majidullah WAPDA Chairman Shakeel Durrani
WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT	Ambassador Melanne Vermeer Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues	Prime Minister's Advisor on Social Issues Shehnaz Wazir Ali Secretary of Women's Development Batool Iqbal Qureshi



For more information on the Strategic Dialogue, follow up meetings, and other updates on U.S.-Pakistan relations, please visit

<http://islamabad.usembassy.gov>

or call/write to

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